



## **Australian Medical Association (NSW) Limited**

# **Media Release**

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### **Health management reform on the table at last**

The State Opposition's policy on NSW Health system management has at last put the focus on the urgent need for reform, AMA (NSW) said today.

"The gulf between administrators and doctors, a focus of the Garling Report, is not only a failure of communication. It reflects the shift of power from hospital management to centralised bureaucracy, leading to absurd results where hospitals are unable to order equipment or buy basic medical supplies," said AMA (NSW) Vice President Dr Michael Steiner.

"Local communities are also disenfranchised under the current system. Area CEOs have no obligation to respond to the views of the communities or front line health workers and management.

"AMA (NSW) supports the concept of district Boards as a suitable platform for the views of health professionals and patients and a means through which administrators would be accountable.

"Power over and accountability for budgets must be restored to the local level. Communities must also be able to voice their views about the clinical services available to them outside of stage managed consultations. While the full range of services will not be available everywhere, it is not beyond the capability of communities and their health service providers to discuss how services will be distributed.

"We are at the beginning of this debate and can only go forward. While the exact form of the structures is yet to be finalised, AMA (NSW) welcomes the strategy of decentralisation and engagement of doctors, other health professionals and local communities in the health services they provide and receive," Dr Steiner said.

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